BSNL/MTNL projects

1694. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some vital projects of BSNL and MTNL are running behind schedule;

(b) if so, the time schedule fixed for completion of BSNL and MTNL projects;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Sir, some project of BSNL and MTNL are running behind schedule. The time schedules fixed for completion of these projects and the reasons for delay are given in Statement I and II for BSNL and MTNL respectively. (*See* below).

(d) Progress of the projects is being constantly reviewed at regular intervals at various levels for timely corrective action. All out efforts are being made to ensure expeditious roll out of services.

Statement-I

Details of BSNL'S project running behind schedule

Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) Projects

(i) The 10.26 lakh lines of WLL procurement project for which NIT was floated on 1.7.2002 was delayed because of being the first MSC based CDMA system for which the validation took more than stipulated time. This project is under advanced stage of completion.

(ii) The 10.5 lakh WLL lines procurement project for which NIT was floated on 15.7.04, the Advance Purchase orders were not accepted by lowest two vendors. Hence, the tender had to be cancelled.

Cellular Mobile Projects

In accordance with the stipulated delivery schedule, BSNL's GSM based expansion project of 4 million lines each in South and North Zone and 3 million in East Zone was envisaged to be commissioned in July, 2005. The project has been partially rolled out and some of the reasons for the delay include:

(i) Time taken to resolve various interoperability issues which needs coordinating with existing vendors and in most cases leading to additional development efforts by vendors.

(ii) Lack of availability of infrastructure resources in the market due to limited infrastructure providers in the country.

(iii) Non-availability of additional spectrum for some of the circles.

(iv) In some of the States there have been problems in granting permission by local municipal authorities for mobile towers.

(v) There has been inordinate delay in releasing power connection by State Electricity Boards/companies in some of the States.

Project 3 of National Internet Back Bone (NIB-II)

The tender for turnkey solution on implementation of operation service support, messaging, storage, billing, enterprise management system and security solution project had to be cancelled earlier due to bids not found technically compliant. However, now, purchase order has been placed on 13.4.05 and the project is now scheduled to be completed in 2006-07.

Statement—II

Details of MTNL's Projects running behind schedule

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Date of Commissioning as per P.O.	Revised date of commissioning	Reasons for delay
1	2	3	4	5
1	Expansion of GSM Network by 400 K in Delhi and Mumbai	11.1.2005	Extension upto 28.2.2006 is requested by vendor	*Primarily due to late supply of equipment by the vendor and installation thereof.

1	2	3	4	5
2	Expansion of CDMA 2000 IX Network by 400K in Delhi and Mumbai	30.9.2004	Delivery schedule exended upto 31.7.2005 and request under consideration for extension upto 28.2.2006	Primarily due to late supply of equipment by the vendor and installation thereof.
3	IP-MPLS	11.11.2005	Extended upto 17.1.2006	-do-
4	Fixed Intelligent Network (FIN)	9.6.2005	25.12.2005	-do-

* Equipment is working and being used to provide services.

Delayed Projects

1695. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to vacant posts at the senior level in BSNL, crucial projects are running way behind scheduled time-frame;

(b) if so, the fasts of the matter as far as expansion of Cellular, CDMA and Basic Network of BSNL and MTNL is concerned; and

(c) the action taken by the Central Government to adhere to the time-frame fixed for completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, Some projects of BSNL and MTNL are running behind schedule and the reasons cannot be attributed to non-availability of Senior level officers. The time schedules fixed for completion of the projects concerning expansion of WLL and cellular networks and the reasons for delay are given in Statement I and II for BSNL and MTNL respectively. (*See* below)

[*Refer to the statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question* 1694]

(c) Progress of the projects is being constantly reviewed at regular intervals at various levels for timely corrective action. All out efforts are being made to ensure expeditious roll out of services.